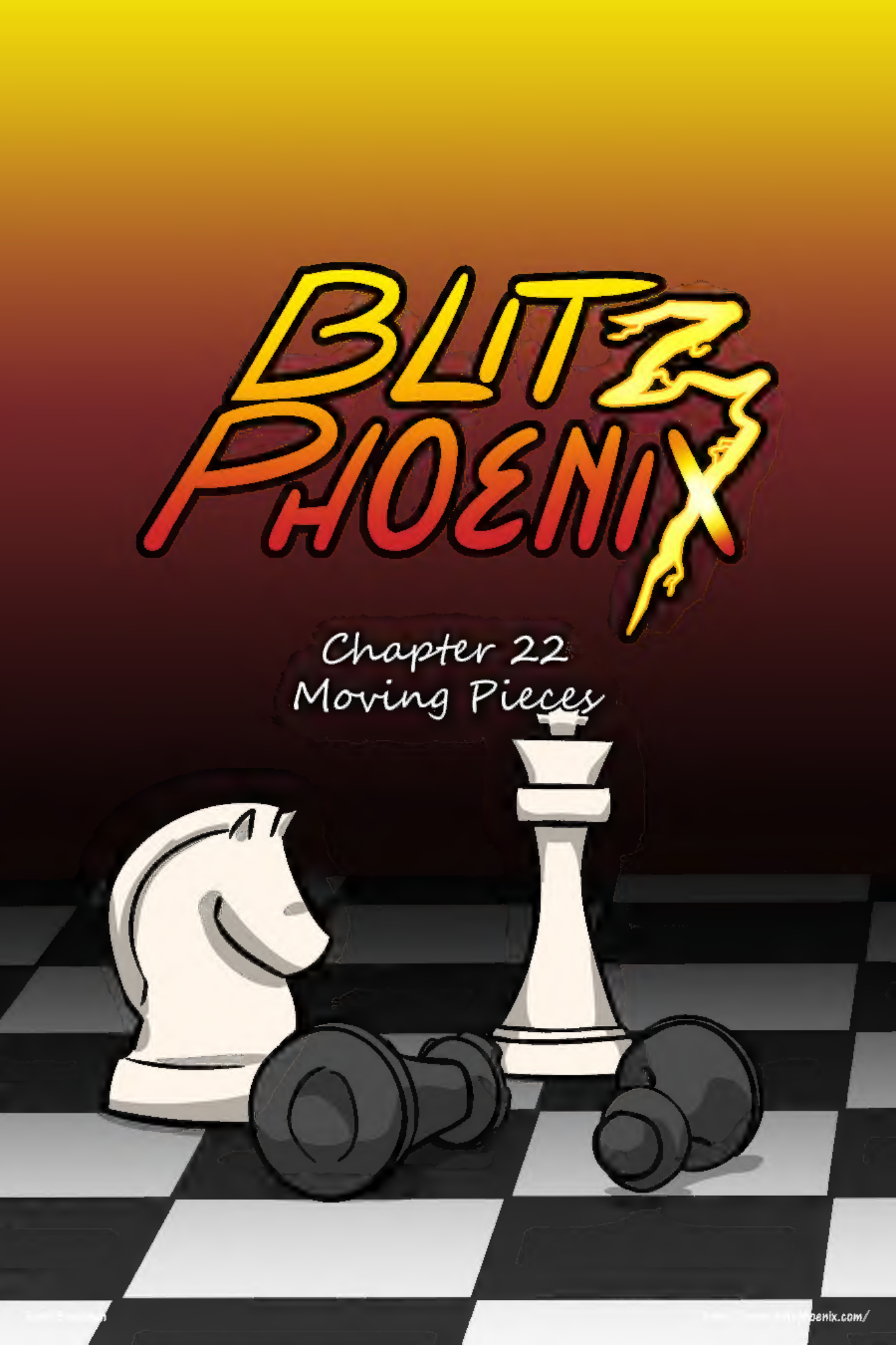
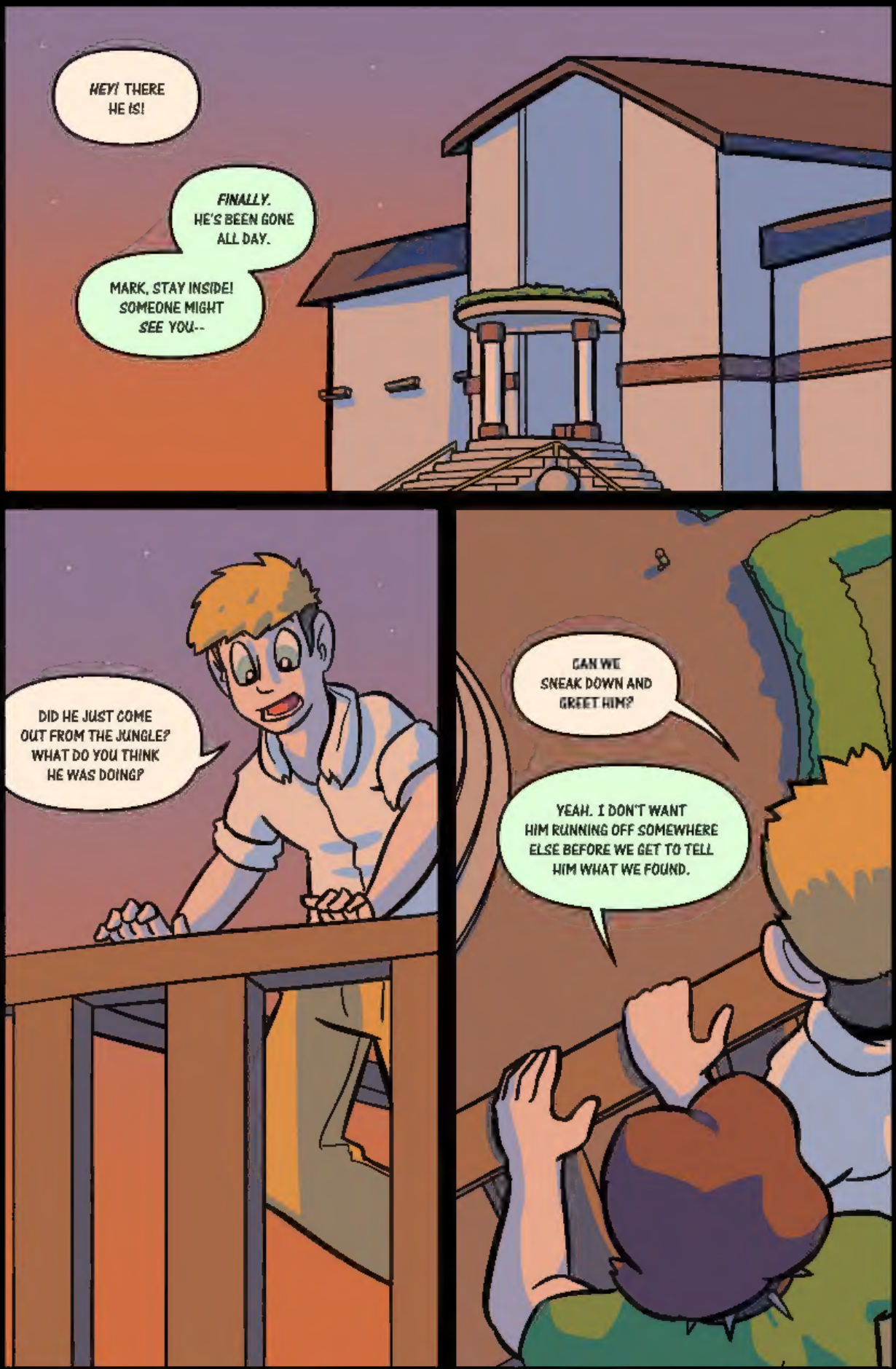
Blit Phoenix

Chapter 22
Moving Pieces



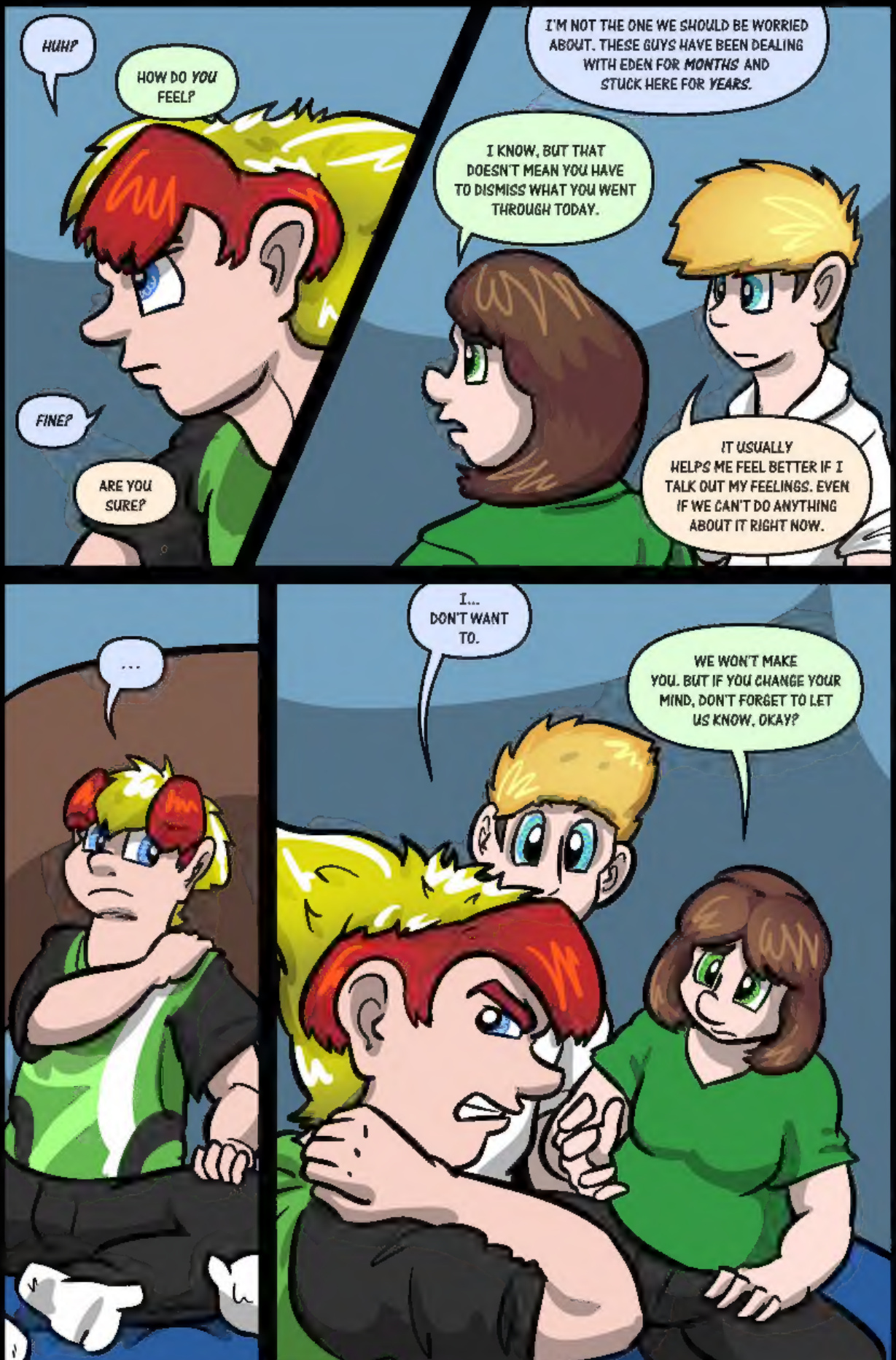

HEY! THERE HE IS!
FINALLY. HE'S BEEN GONE ALL DAY.
MARK, STAY INSIDE! SOMEONE MIGHT SEE YOU--
DID HE JUST COME OUT FROM THE JUNGLE? WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WAS DOING?
CAN WE SNEAK DOWN AND GREET HIM?
YEAH. I DON'T WANT HIM RUNNING OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE BEFORE WE GET TO TELL HIM WHAT WE FOUND.

TERRY! YOU MISSED LUNCH!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WAITING FOR YOU! NO ONE'S SEEN YOU AROUND THE MANSION, SO I THOUGHT I'D WAIT FOR YOU TO COME BACK IN.

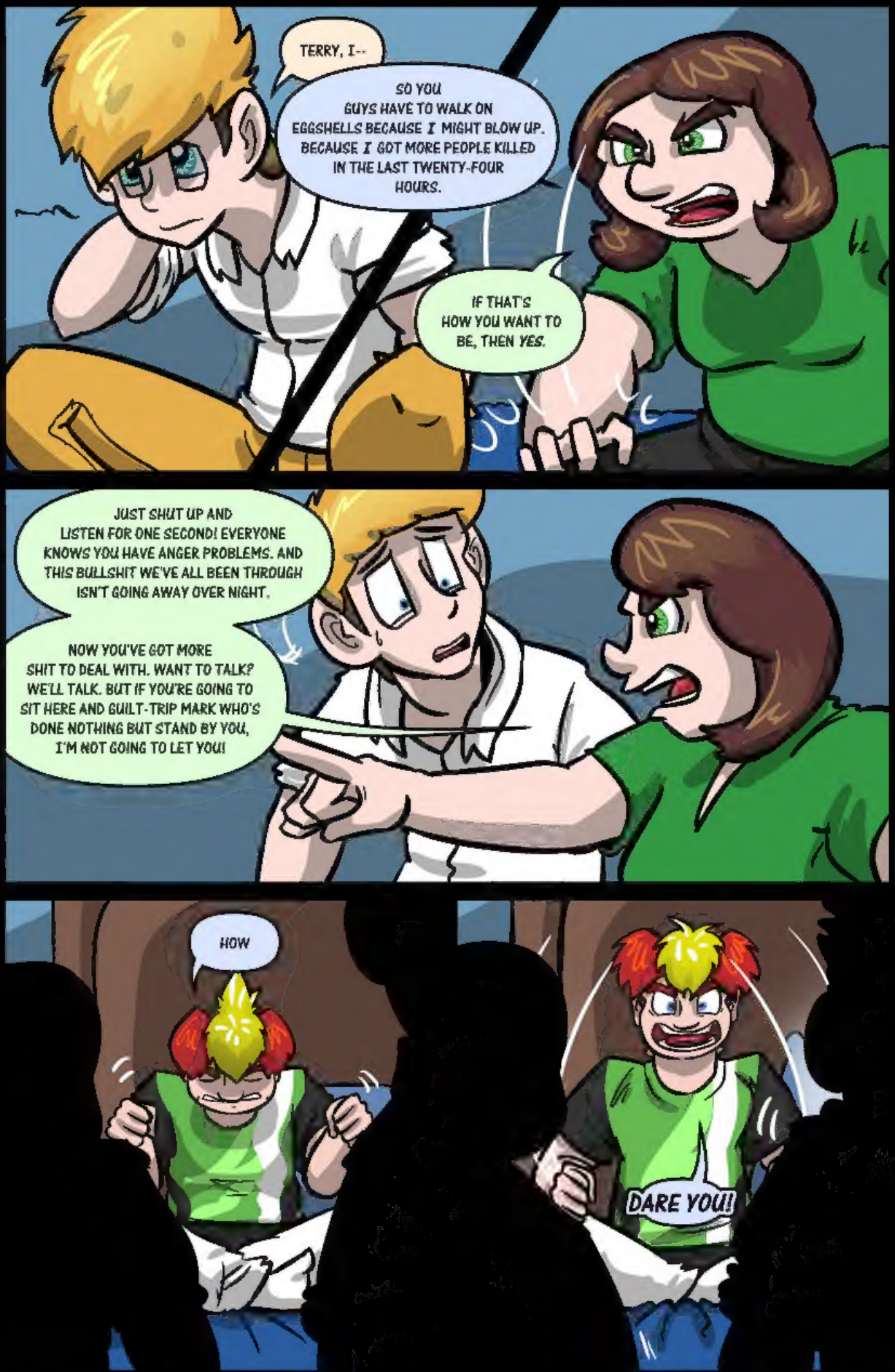
I WAS... LOOKING AT EDEN.
OH? ADMIRING HER, HUH? ISN'T SHE SOMETHING?
HAZARD--
I WISH YOU'D CALL ME SETH, KID. WE CAN BE FRIENDS, YOU KNOW.
HAZARD. DID YOU KNOW SHE'S NOT A PLANT, LIKE YOU SAID SHE WAS?
...EXCUSE ME?
DID YOU KNOW SHE EATS PEOPLE?
HOW LONG WERE YOU OUTSIDE? YOU WEREN'T IN THE SUN THAT WHOLE TIME, WERE YOU?
LET'S GET YOU SOME WATER--
ARE YOU SERIOUS? DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW? WHAT ABOUT YOUR ENGINEER, THAT WOMAN WHO'S HERE TO FIX EDEN?

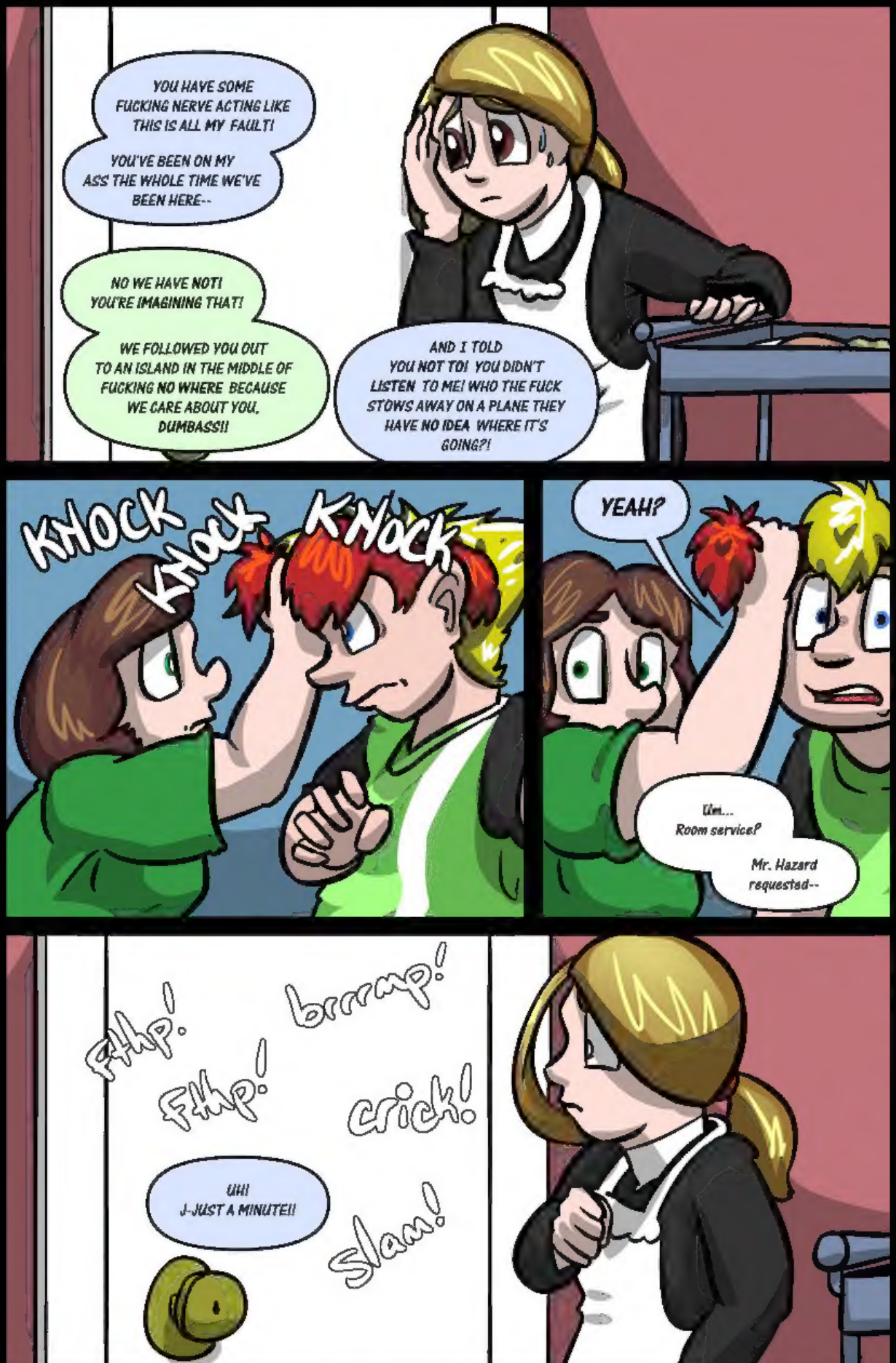
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING. GO TO YOUR ROOM AND LIE DOWN.
BECAUSE WE NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE HEAT STROKE.
WHY?
I'M NOT SICK! I DON'T EVEN GET SICK ANYMORE, MY POWERS JUST--
GO TAKE A NAP AND I'LL SEND ROOM SERVICE TO YOUR ROOM IN A BIT.
NO! I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW!
GO LAY DOWN. NOW.
What did you say? It eats people?

Later...
OKAY, SO WHAT WE'VE FOUND OUT SO FAR IS THIS...
ALL THE WORKERS ARE SLAVES, THE ONLY ONES GETTING PAID ARE THE SECURITY GUARDS.
MERCENARIES.
THE MEN ARE SENT TO THE MINES AND THE WOMEN ARE MAIDS IN THE HOUSE. THE MINERS WERE TRYING TO CONVINCE ZINCMAN TO LET THEM GO BY TAKING OVER EDEN.
AND EDEN IS...
EATING THEM.
EDEN ATTACKED YOU, RIGHT? DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE IT EAT SOMEONE?
NO. IT TRIED. IT STABBED A GUY THROUGH HIS CHEST WITH ITS TEETH.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. I TOLD YOU I FOUGHT IT OFF.
NO, I MEAN... ARE YOU OKAY?


HUH?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
FINE?
ARE YOU SURE?
I'M NOT THE ONE WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT. THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH EDEN FOR MONTHS AND STUCK HERE FOR YEARS.
I KNOW, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO DISMISS WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH TODAY.
IT USUALLY HELPS ME FEEL BETTER IF I TALK OUT MY FEELINGS. EVEN IF WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW.
...
I... DON'T WANT TO.
WE WON'T MAKE YOU. BUT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW, OKAY?

WHAT IS THIS ACTUALLY ABOUT?
WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE DOING OKAY.
YOU SAID THAT. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS REALLY ABOUT, IS IT?
IT'S NOT ANYTHING DEEPER THAN THAT, DUDE. YOU JUST TOLD US YOU SAW A GUY GET STABBED BY A GIANT, MAN-EATING PLANT MONSTER.
JUST CHECKING IN!
... OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE I'M A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF WHAT MARK SAID EARLIER.
BECAUSE I FUCKED UP BY FREEING THE PLANT AND NOW PEOPLE ARE DYING AGAIN.


TERRY, I--
SO YOU GUYS HAVE TO WALK ON EGGSHELLS BECAUSE I MIGHT BLOW UP. BECAUSE I GOT MORE PEOPLE KILLED IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO BE, THEN YES.
JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN FOR ONE SECOND! EVERYONE KNOWS YOU HAVE ANGER PROBLEMS. AND THIS BULLSHIT WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH ISN'T GOING AWAY OVER NIGHT.
NOW YOU'VE GOT MORE SHIT TO DEAL WITH. WANT TO TALK? WE'LL TALK. BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO SIT HERE AND GUILT-TRIP MARK WHO'S DONE NOTHING BUT STAND BY YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU!
HOW
DARE YOU!


YOU HAVE SOME FUCKING NERVE ACTING LIKE THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
YOU'VE BEEN ON MY ASS THE WHOLE TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE--
NO WE HAVE NOT! YOU'RE IMAGINING THAT!
WE FOLLOWED YOU OUT TO AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF FUCKING NO WHERE BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT YOU, DUMBASS!!
AND I TOLD YOU NOT TO! YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME! WHO THE FUCK STOWS AWAY ON A PLANE THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT'S GOING?!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
YEAH?
Um... Room service?
Mr. Hazard requested--
fthp!
fthp!
brrrmp!
crick!
slam!
UH! J-JUST A MINUTE!!